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Annual Report

For The Town of

BENTON

NEW HAMPSHIRE

For the Year ending December 31
1984

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE TOWN OF
BENTON



John Boutin, Sr.

Born 1898

Selectman 1923-1968

Farmer, lumberman and construction;
Well-known and respected throughout the area.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31,

1984

TOWN OF BENTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE TOWN OFFICERS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1984

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BENTON TOWN OFFICERS
1984

Board of Selectmen

<u>Chairman:</u>	Marjorie Robitzer	Term Expires 1986
	John Elliott, Jr.	Term Expires 1987
	Wayne Klingler	Term Expires 1985

<u>Moderator:</u>	Daniel Elliott	Term Expires 1986
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<u>Town Clerk:</u>	Helena Harris	Term Expires 1985
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<u>Tax Collector:</u>		
	Maxine Tyler	Term Expires 1985
	Helena Harris (Deputy)	

<u>Treasurer:</u>	Priscilla Boutin	Term Expires 1985
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<u>Auditor:</u>	Dorothy Elliott (Resigned)	Term Expires 1985
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Health Officer:

<u>Supervisors of the Checklist:</u>		
	Dorothy I Elliott (Resigned)	Term Expires 1984
	Catherine Elliott	Term Expires 1986
	Seraphene Harris	Term Expires 1988

<u>Trustees of the Trust Funds:</u>		
	Joseph Boutin Jr.	Term Expires 1984
	Scott Roden	Term Expires 1985

<u>Surveyor of Wood and Lumber:</u>		
	Joseph Boutin Jr.	Term Expires 1985

Constable:

<u>Dog Officer:</u>	David Harris	Term Expires 1985
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<u>Sexton:</u>	David Harris	Term Expires 1985
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<u>Ballot Clerk:</u>		
	Iona Boutin	

<u>Ballot Inspector:</u>		
	Kate Goodwin	

<u>Community Building Committee:</u>		
	Selectmen	

WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

GRAFTON, ss

TOWN OF BENTON

To the inhabitants of the Town of Benton, N.H. who are qualified to vote in town affairs.

You are hereby notified to meet at the Community building in Benton on Tuesday, March 12, 1985 at 7:00 P.M. to act upon the following subjects:

Article 1: To vote for the following officers:

One Selectman to serve for a term of three years
One Treasurer to serve for a term of one year
One Tax Collector to serve for a term of one year
One Trustee of Trust Fund to serve for a term of three years

And such other town officers as may be required by law.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to set the salaries of two selectmen at \$300.00 each, Chairman to receive \$500.00, Tax Collector, Treasurer and Town Clerk to receive \$300.00 each.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to make any alterations in the amount of money to be raised and appropriated for the ensuing year for the support of the Town as recommended in the budget, to raise and appropriate all sums so determined for said purposes, and to pass any other vote irrelevant thereto.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of officers and agents as printed in the Town report.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to borrow funds for current indebtedness in anticipation of taxes collected in Fiscal Year 1985 and to be paid therefrom.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to administer or sell any real estate acquired through tax collectors deeds.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to authorize a discount on current property taxes paid before a date set by the selectmen, if all previous taxes are paid, and will set the amount of said discount.

Article 8: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

A true copy of warrant - Attest

Marjorie Robitzer
Wayne Klingler
John Elliott, Jr.
Selectmen of Benton, NH

TOWN OF BENTON
BUDGET SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

<u>Sources of Revenue</u>	<u>Estimated Revenue 1984</u>	<u>Actual Revenue 1984</u>	<u>Estimated Revenue 1985</u>
<u>Taxes:</u>			
Resident Taxes	\$1200.00	\$1010.00	\$1100.00
Yield Taxes	2500.00	4936.94	500.00
Interest & Penalties On Taxes	2000.00	2443.94	2000.00
Inventory Penalties	180.00		50.00
<u>Intergovernmental Revenues - State</u>			
Shared Revenue - Block Grant	3400.00		
Highway Block Grant	6000.00	7935.91	8049.09
Reimb. A/C State - Federal			
Forest Land	8000.00	12,184.27	8000.00
Other Reimbursements:			
National Forest Reserve (½)	5000.00	5555.50	5000.00
T.RA Refund (from 1983)	1987.99		
<u>Intergovernmental Revenues - Federal</u>			
Fed. Owned Entitlement Lands	7000.00	5323.00	7000.00
<u>Licenses & Permits</u>			
Motor Vehicles Permit Fees	4500.00	6973.00	6500.00
Dog Licenses	150.00	319.00	250.00
<u>Charges for Services:</u>			
Rent of Town Property		50.00	100.00
<u>Miscellaneous Revenues</u>			
Interest on Deposits	800.00	3927.13	2000.00
Sale of Town Property 10% down			
- Tax sale Lot		145.00	1305.00
Trust Fund Highways	115.00	325.36	300.00
Sale of Town Property -			
Cemetery Lots	50.00	10.00	50.00
Trust Fund Cemetery		363.80	300.00
<u>Other Financing Sources:</u>			
Revenue Sharing Fund	3500.00	10,682.98	3235.00
Fund Balance		8053.80	
Rev. Sharing		5112.43	
Total Revenues And Credits	\$44,395.00	\$67,933.88	\$45,739.09

TOWN OF BENTON
SUMMARY OF INVENTORY VALUATION

Land - Improved and Unimporved		\$1,963,970.00
Under current use	\$33,350.00	
All Other	\$1,930,620.00	
Buildings		\$2,109,480.00
Public Utilities - Electric		\$ 58,560.00
Personal Property - Mobile Homes		<u>\$ 120,500.00</u>
		\$4,252,510.00
Exemptions - Elderly		<u>\$ 10,000.00</u>
Total Net Valuation		\$4,242,510.00

TOWN OF BENTON
SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1984

<u>Description:</u>	<u>Value</u>
Town Hall, Lands and Buildings	\$48,700.00
Furniture and Equipment	2,000.00
All lands and buildings acquired through Tax Collector's deeds (give assessed valuation of property so taken listing each piece separately)	
Raymond Girard Lot	
Sold - Bid 0 10% down paid	
1450.00 - 145.00 - 1305.00	
	\$1305.00
Old Town Clerks office and furnishings	\$ 500.00
TOTAL	<u>\$52,505.00</u>

TOWN OF BENTON
BUDGET AND SUMMARY ANALYSIS

	<u>Expenses /1983</u>	<u>Appropriation/1984</u>	<u>Expenses/1984</u>	<u>Estimated Expenses / 1985</u>
Town Officers Salaries	\$1,136.80	\$1,300.00	\$1,265.00	\$2,000.00
Town Officers Expenses	2,685.53	2,000.00	1,446.08	2,000.00
Elections	328.40	1,200.00	1,221.80	300.00
Cemeteries	350.25	250.00	357.10	350.00
Buildings	984.11	1,500.00	1,985.50	1,500.00
Legal Expenses	105.00	100.00	526.55	500.00
Regional Assna.	219.00	400.00	677.00	700.00
Town Clerk Fees			142.00	200.00
Police Dept.		200.00		200.00
Fire Department		3,500.00		3,500.00
Waste Disposal	1,610.00	2,200.00	1,505.04	1,610.00
Town Roads - Winter	13,425.70	9,000.00	23,918.53	12,000.00
- Summer				
R.R.A.	2,020.00			
Cottage Hospital & Ambulance	500.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
North Country Home				
Health Agency, Inc.	100.00	341.25	341.25	341.25
White Mtn. Mental Health	300.00	495.00	495.00	495.00
Welfare & Old Age Assist.	253.00	300.00	50.25	300.00
Interest - Note	795.84	1,000.00	1,441.34	1,500.00
Insurance & Bonds	1,872.00	2,000.00	1,147.65	1,500.00
	<u>\$26,685.63</u>	<u>\$26,386.25</u>	<u>\$37,120.09</u>	<u>\$29,596.25</u>

TOWN OF BENTON
REPORT OF TOWN CLERK FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1984

DEBITS

Motor Vehicle Permits Issued	217	\$6973.00
Dog Licenses Issues	41	219.00
Fines and Penalties	7	<u>100.00</u>

TOTAL DEBITS	\$7292.00
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CREDITS

<u>Remittance to Treasurer</u>	
Motor Vehicle Permit Fees	\$6667.00
Dog Licenses and Penalties	299.50

<u>Fees Retained By Town Clerk</u>	
Motor Vehicle	306.00
Dog Licenses	<u>19.50</u>

TOTAL CREDITS	\$7292.00
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TOWN OF BENTON
TAX COLLECTORS REPORT
FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1984 (June 30, 1985)

<u>Uncollected Taxes - Beginning of Fiscal Year</u>	-----Levies Of-----				
	<u>1985</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1981</u>
Property Taxes			\$24,562.24		
Resident Taxes			330.00		
Yield Taxes			297.49	\$92.64	\$932.30

Taxes Committed to Collector:

Property Taxes	\$62,680.40
Resident Taxes	1,120.00
Yield Taxes	2,705.27

Added Taxes:

Resident Taxes	\$ 40.00
Yield Taxes	2,826.92 \$258.05

Overpayments:

A/C Property Taxes	\$ 105.18
A/C Resident Taxes	20.00

Interest Collection on Delinquent

Property Taxes	\$ 4.44	\$ 1,296.11	\$ 5.80
Int. On Yield Taxes		\$ 62.52	

Penalties collected on Resident

<u>Taxes :</u>	\$ 4.00	\$ 23.00		
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Total Debits	\$69,508.21	\$26,829.41	\$98.44	\$932.30
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- CR -

Remittances to Treasurer During Fiscal Year:

Property Taxes	\$47,731.12	\$24,485.55	
Resident Taxes	780.00	230.00	
Yield Taxes	4,497.67	379.74	\$59.53
Interest Collected During			
Year	4.44	1,296.11	5.80
Penalties on Resident Taxes	6.00	23.00	
Int. on Yield Taxes	1,310.07	62.52	

Discounts Allowed:

Overpayment Resident Tax	\$ 20.00
Overpayment Property Tax	105.18

Abatements Made During Year:

Property Taxes	\$ 76.69
Resident Taxes	100.00

TOWN OF BENTON
TAX COLLECTORS REPORT
FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1985 (JUNE 30, 1985)

	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981
<u>Uncollected Taxes - End of Fiscal Year:</u>					
(As per collectors deed)					
Property Taxes		\$13,639.21			
Resident Taxes		380.00			
Yield Taxes		1,034.52	\$175.80	\$33.11	932.30
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		\$69,508.21	\$26,829.41	\$98.44	\$932.30

TOWN OF BENTON
SUMMARY OF TAX SALES ACCOUNTS
FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1984
(JUNE 30, 1985)

	<u>1983</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1980</u>
Balance of Unredeemed Taxes - Beginning Fiscal Year*		\$7,550.28	\$3,386.24	\$ 110.86
Taxes Sold to Town During Current Fiscal Year**	\$3,561.46			
Interest Collected After Sale	11.25	998.78	1,207.04	
Redemption Costs	<u>23.60</u>	<u>94.40</u>	<u>108.20</u>	<u> </u>
Total Debits	\$3,596.31	\$8,643.46	\$4,701.48	\$ 110.86

- CR -

Remittance To Treasurer During Year

Redemptions	\$1,239.14	\$5,625.24	\$3,386.24	\$10,250.62
Interest & Costs After Sale	34.85	1,093.18	1,315.24	
Deeded To Town During Year (both figures are Raymond Girard Property)		111.95		110.86
Unredeemed Taxes - End of Fiscal Year	<u>2,322.32</u>	<u>1,813.09</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Credits	\$3,596.31	\$8,643.46	\$4,701.48	\$10,361.48

*These sums represent the total of unredeemed taxes, as of January 1, 1985 from tax sales held in Previous fiscal years.

**Amount of tax sale(s) held during current fiscal year, including total amount of taxes, interest and costs to date of sale(s).

TOWN OF BENTON
TREASURERS REPORT - DETAILED STATEMENT
OF RECEIPTS FOR YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1984

From Tax Collector		\$88,727.64
From Selectmen		
Filing Fee	\$ 6.00	
Pistol Permit	20.00	
Sale of Cemetery Lots	10.00	
Sale of Culverts	106.40	
Overpayment - Rebate	106.40	
Tax collectors - Deed -		
10% on sale	145.00	
Rent Community Bldg	50.00	
		----- 443.80
Refund - Franconia Ins.	\$ 882.35	
Tax Anticipation: Note	40,000.00	
		----- \$ 40,882.35
From Town Clerk		
Motor Vehicles	\$ 6,667.00	
Dog Licenses	229.50	
		----- 6,896.50
From Trust Fund		
For Highways	\$ 325.36	
For Cemeteries	363.80	
		----- 689.16
From State Of N.H.		
State & Federal Lands	\$12,184.27	
National Forest Reserve	11,111.01	
Highway Block Grant	7,935.91	
Tra Refund	1,987.99	
		----- \$ 33,219.18
From Federal Government		
Forest Lands Entitlement	5,323.00	
Yield Tax Transfer	3,899.20	
Choice Account Transfers	95,065.00	
		----- \$104,287.20
	TOTAL	----- \$275,109.43

TREASURER'S REPORT DETAIL STATEMENT OF
DISBURSEMENTS

Town Officers Salaries

John Elliott Jr (For 83)	Acting Selectman	\$ 90.00
Jacob Aldrich	Auditor	25.00
Wayne Klingler	Selectman	200.00
John Elliott Jr	Selectman	200.00
Marjorie Robitzer	Selectman	200.00
Helena Harris	Town Clerk	150.00
Maxine Tyler	Tax Collector	200.00
Priscilla Boutin	Treasurer	200.00

\$1265.00

Town Officers Expenses

Notices	\$222.00
Office Supplies	431.54
Postage	233.24
Maps - Tax	50.00
Town Reports	381.00
Register of Deeds	63.80
Small Claims Court	40.00
Safe Deposit Box	17.50
Fees - Meeting	7.00

\$1446.08

Election And Registration

Daniel Elliott, Moderator	\$ 80.40
Helena Harris	107.20
Kate Goodwin	80.40
Iona Boutin	80.40
Dorothy Elliott	174.20
John Elliott	26.80
Catherine Elliott	214.40
Serephene Harris	214.40
Wayne Lkingler	80.40
William Harris	26.80
Marjorie Robitzer	53.60
Notices	56.00

\$1195.00

Town Building

Oil	\$1270.66
Electricity	169.62
Repairs	57.93
New Lights	249.10
Telephone	238.19

\$1985.50

Town Clerk Fees \$142.00

Insurance and bonds \$2030.00

\$2172.00

TREASURER'S REPORT DETAIL STATEMENT OF
DISBURSEMENTS

Dues

Tax Collectors Assn.	\$	15.00
Assoc. of Assessing Officials		20.00
Town Clerks Assn.		12.00
North Country Council		230.00
N.H. Municipal Assn.		400.00

\$ 677.00

Health Department

N. Country Home Health	\$	341.25
Cottage Hospital		500.00
Ambulance Service		100.00
White Mt. Mental Health		495.00

\$ 1,436.25

Solid Waste Disposal

\$ 1,505.04

Town Roads

Winter Roads - Frank Drew	\$	9,714.25
Plastic		178.50
Sand		300.00
Salt		249.84
Signs		35.90
		<hr/> \$10,478.49

Summer Roads - Frank Drew	\$12,314.30
Culverts	556.34
Cold Patch	554.40
Sand	15.00
	<hr/> \$13,440.04

\$ 23,918.53

Public Welfare	\$	50.25
Cemeteries		357.10
Legal Fees		526.55
Interest		1441.34
Tax Anticipation Note		40,000.00
Taxes Bought By Town		3,694.29
Abatements and Refunds		119.76
Payments to Other Gov't		11,229.00
Divisions		
Payments to School District		91,871.39
Deposit - Telephone		200.00

\$149,489.68

Total Selectmen Orders

\$185,090.08

TOWN AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the accounts of the Tax Collector, Town Treasurer, Town Clerk and selectmen and find them fairly stated.

Respectfull submitted,

Matthew Flynn
Auditor

TOWN OF BENTON TRUST FUNDS FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1984

Ira Whitcher	\$ 500.00
Whitcher & Mann	500.00
Whitcher & Mann	1000.00
Whitcher & Mann	1750.00
Whitcher & Mann	1750.00
J.C. Speed	134.71
Whitcher & Kendall	200.00
Samuel Annis	50.00
William T. Torsey	50.00
Jonatham Davis	50.00
George H. Qark	200.00
Ella Mann	50.00
Kendrick L. Howe	50.00
Daniel M. & Kendrick L. Howe	100.00
Isabella Tyler	50.00
Lee & Maude McKean	100.00
Vevah M. Leonard	250.00
Library Fund	<u>190.99</u>
Total	\$6,975.70

Interest to be used on 1985 budget As Listed Below

Total Interest Rc'D

<u>Cemeteries</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Highway</u>	
\$335.57	\$360.31	\$329.76	\$1025.64

Respectfully Submitted,

TOWN OF BENTON
COMMUNITY BUILDING REPORT
FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1984

Balance on hand 12-31-83	\$270.00
Expenses:	
Christmas Party	<u>250.00</u>
Balance on Hand 12-31-84	20.00

Serephene Harris
Chairman

TOWN OF BENTON
COMPARATIVE STATE OF APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES
FOR YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1984

Title of Appropriation	Appropriation	Receipts and Reimbursements	Total Amount Available	Expenditures	Unexpended Balance	Overdraft
Town Officers Salaries	\$1,300.00		\$1,300.00	\$1,265.00	\$ 35.00	
Town Officers Expenses	2,000.00		2,000.00	1,876.00	124.00	
Elections & Registration	1,200.00		1,200.00	1,222.00		\$ 22.00
Cemeteries	250.00		250.00	357.00		107.00
Town Buildings	1,500.00		1,500.00	1,986.00		486.00
Planning & Zonine	300.00		300.00	230.00	70.00	
Legal Expenses	100.00		100.00	527.00		427.00
Police Dept.	200.00		200.00		200.00	
Fire Dept.	3,500.00		3,500.00		3,500.00	
Town Rd. Maint.	9,000.00	\$206.00	9,206.00	23,919.00		14,713.00
Solid Waste Disposal	2,200.00		2,200.00	1,505.00	695.00	
Health	1,436.00		1,436.00	1,436.00		
Welfare	300.00	13.00	313.00	50.00	263.00	
Interest	1,000.00		1,000.00	1,441.00		441.00
Bonds & Insurance	2,000.00	882.00	2,882.00	2,030.00	852.00	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$26,286.00	\$1101.00	\$27,387.00	\$37,844.00	\$5,739.00	\$16,196.00
				Net Overdraft		<hr/>
						5,739.00
						<hr/>
						\$10,457.00

REPORT OF THE GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

To the Citizens of Grafton County:

Grafton County Commissioners submit the following report in a continued effort to communicate with you on a more direct basis.

The county fiscal year 1985 tax rate to towns increased by 6.7%, mainly due to increased liabilities and mandates for services. One reason is that the child placement budget has escalated from \$40,000 in fiscal year 1982 to over \$250,000 in fiscal year 1985. These costs are a direct result of RSA 169 when towns succeeded in getting laws changed to place financial responsibility on the counties. Also, the settlement, so that once the County has liability, the liability now remains with the County indefinitely. In addition, as experienced by towns and cities, the cost of nursing care has rapidly increased because of reduced federal and state funding, and will continue to increase at the local level with property taxes funding more of these services in the future.

We anticipate some budget relief with the new unified court system as soon as total costs of the court operations are fully funded by the State as intended in the legislation.

Because of the increasing unfunded mandated services and the unknown nature of federal and state participation in those mandated services, it becomes more difficult each year to budget in a realistic manner - a problem shared in common with towns and cities.

We are continuing energy conservation measures, with appreciable cost savings to the taxpayers. Window modification, with a five year pay-back, is one of our long term conservation measures, as well as modification to the heating control system.

Correctional needs and facilities are continually monitored and reviewed to comply with current standards and regulations. Studies have been completed and new construction was not recommended at this time.

In accordance with federal revenue sharing requirements, all county facilities and services are regularly reviewed for compliance with handicap regulations.

The Commissioners hold regular weekly meetings every Monday and encourage public attendance. Grafton County budget is processed through May and June and the Commissioners welcome input and strongly recommend your attendance at the public hearing normally held in mid-June.

We appreciate your continued interest and support.

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Dorothy Campion-Corcoran
Arthur E. Snell
Leonard F. Anderson

REPORT OF THE TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN AND STATE FOREST RANGER

Our first forest fire prevention law was enacted by our State Legislature 90 years ago. This early law set in place a cooperative forest fire prevention and suppression effort between city and town governments and State government. It simply stated that no open fire could be kindled, when the ground is free of snow, without the written permission of the town/city Forest Fire Warden. This law also stated that anyone kindling a fire without written permission shall be liable for the damage caused and subject to a \$1000 fine.

During the past 90 years, this law has worked so well that it has remained unchanged. All open fires when the ground is not covered with snow must be authorized by the local Forest Fire Warden. Persons kindling a fire without a permit when one is required are liable for damages caused, fire suppression costs and subject to a \$1000 fine.

This cooperative fire prevention law has contributed significantly to our nationally recognized annual forest fire loss record.

1984 Statistics

	<u>STATE</u>	<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>CITY/TOWN</u>
No. of Fires	875	21	0
No. of Acres	335	25	0
Forest Ranger	Forest Fire Warden		
John Q. Ricard	William J. Harris		

NORTH COUNTRY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

Calendar year 1984 saw the North Country Council, Inc. observe its twelfth year of successful operation for towns in the North Country. The Council, as a regional, non-profit, public planning agency chartered under NH RSA 36:45, is responsible for providing assistance in local community planning, economic development, solid waste, transportation, and municipal services.

In Benton, we met with the Planning Board to discuss local land use issues, including the need to update their Subdivision Regulations and their enforcement, as well as overall Board responsibilities. The Town is part of the Ammonoosuc Valley Solid Waste District and we're compiling parts of a solid waste plan, including a report on the septage disposal situation in Benton.

In economic development, the Council hosted in the spring two region-wide economic development conferences with over 200 business, industry and government leaders attending. From the conferences, regional strategies were developed to address such issues as highway improvements, air service, regional promotion, mechanisms for regional communication, development funding, and regional job expansion. As an outgrowth of these conferences, the Council is presently coordinating the preparation of a North Country Videotape project, which, when complete, will examine the potential for industry to locate in the North Country. The Videotape will be available to Chambers of Commerce, local development corporations, and municipalities in order to promote their communities to businesses looking to expand or relocate in the North Country.

The Council has provided information and guidance to several towns on federal and state grant and loan programs. This past year saw well over \$2.0 million in community Development Block Grant funds come to the region for such activities as housing rehabilitation, water and sewer system improvements, a downtown revitalization study, an industrial park feasibility study, and business revolving loan funds.

Community planning assistance has emphasized master planning and improvement in local land use controls. New state mandates created busy work loads for planning boards. The Council's assistance takes many forms: regional workshops, newsletters, regulation review and update, and assistance on a regular or one-time basis for subdivision and site plan applications. Subdivision review workshops were held in Littleton, Campton, and Dalton and we co-sponsored the Municipal Law Lecture Series in Twin Mountain.

Overall, the Council's major objective is to work with North Country towns in solving local and regional problems. We rely on and appreciate the involvement of town officials and residents and look forward to assisting your town this coming year.

RECORD OF AFFIRMATIVE VOTES
AT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 1984
MARCH 13, 1984

Agreeable to the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting, the meeting was called to order by the Moderator, John G. Elliott Jr. on March 13, 1984 at 7:00 P.M. at the Benton Community Building.

Article 1:

Voted:	John G. Elliott	Selectman	Term 3 years
	Marjorie Robitzer	Selectwoman	Term 1 year
	Priscilla Boutin	Treasurer	Term 1 year
	Maxine Tyler	Tax Collector	Term 1 year
	Helena Harris	Town Clerk	Term 1 year
	Daniel Elliott	Moderator	Term 1 year
	Dorothy Elliott	Auditor	Term 1 year
	Albert Boutin	Trustee Of Trust Funds	Term 1 year
	David Harris	Dog Catcher	Term 1 year
	David Harris	Sexton	Term 1 year
	Joseph Boutin Jr.	Surveyor Of Wood & Lumber	Term 1 year

As there is no one in Town Qualified to serve as Constable, it was left up to the Selectmen to check into this and see if they can find someone to fill this position.

Article 2:

Voted to wait on Article 2 which was to see if the state should be requested to take over the responsibility of governing the town and managing its affairs. A motion was made and seconded to bring this Article up again after Article 11.

Article 3:

Voted that this Article for having a reappraisal made of all taxable Real Estate in the Town, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 for this purpose, to authorize the use of Federal Sharing Funds to defray the expense of such reappraisal, and to take any other action thereon, would not be voted upon at this time. The new Selectmen are going to give the Tax Business a try and see how it goes for this year. This Article would then appear in next years Warrant and have the Town vote on it then.

Article 4:

Voted for the Town to make any alterations in the amount of money to be raised and appropriated for the ensuing year for the support of the Town as recommended in the budget, to raise and appropriate all sums so determined for said purposes and to pass any other vote relating thereto. It was voted that the amount of \$250 would more than cover the cost of cemetery work where last year it was \$350. There was a question as to why election fees have gone up and the reply was there are more elections this year. It was also noted that the amount of \$8,000 which would of been used for reappraisal, was to be deducted from the total appropriations and it would now be \$26,523. It was asked if anyone who handles money in town is insured and it was stated that they are bonded. It was discovered that Benton School Board is not covered by any insurance for Liability or such, except when they are at a school board meeting. It was suggested that someone check and see if there was proper insurance coverage on Town Officials. There was some comment on the rising of the solid waste disposal fee of \$1610 to \$2200. It was also asked why

we have to pay the solid waste fee when we already pay to have our trash removed. It was also asked why we can't have our own dumpster in Town. The reply was that other people besides Benton would be using it more than likely and we would still have to pay the solid waste disposal fee, so we wouldn't be saving any money. A motion was made and seconded to accept first part of this Article with the exception of the last part. This part of the Article (to pass any other vote relating thereto) to be deleted from future warrants.

Article 5:

Voted that the Town will accept the reports of officers and agents as printed in the Town report.

Article 6:

Voted that the Town will authorize the Selectmen to borrow funds for current indebtedness in anticipation of Taxes collected in Fiscal year 1984 and to be paid therefrom.

Article 7:

Voted that the Town will authorize the selectmen to administer or sell any Real Estate acquired through Tax Collectors Deeds.

Article 8:

Voted that the Town will authorize a discount on current property taxes paid before a set date by the selectmen, if all previous taxes are paid, and will set the amount of said discount. A 4% discount was agreed upon for this year. It was also agreed upon to take into consideration not to have this discount next year as it actually hurts the poor people in Town who just don't have the money to pay their tax bill and the people who do have the money are the only ones who can afford to pay up quick and get advantage of the discount.

Article 9:

Voted to see if the Town would use part of the Town Building Fund to improve the lighting in the Town Building. The approximate cost would be \$500. It was discussed and also decided that the actual cost would be less than \$500. The reason for these new lights was questioned and it was explained that they give more light and are cheaper to run. (Flourescent lights)

Article 10:

Voted to put the Benton property tax billing on computer when it becomes available. The school has offered free use of their computer which goes into affect in 1985. Anyone who would be using this computer would be trained in computer use. The use of the computer would be free for awhile and then there will be a fee. Using the computer would save much time on taxes. At one time it was going to cost around \$300, but as of right now it will be free.

Article 11:

Voted to transact any other business which comes before the meeting. There was no other business.

The town then returned to Article 2, which was not accepted. This was to see if the state should be requested to take over the responsibility of governing the Town and managing its affairs. The reason for not accepting this article right now was that most everyone agreed that with the many new officers in Town perhaps the town can straighten out its many problems and therefore not need the governing of the state.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjoured at 8:30 P.M. New Officers were sworn in at this time.

A true copy attest

Helena L. Harris
Town Clerk-Benton

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT OFFICERS
SCHOOL BOARD

Mrs. Priscilla Boutin, Chairman	Term Expires 1985
Mrs Alice Harris	Term Expires 1986
Mr. Peter Thompson	Term Expires 1987

OTHER DISTRICT OFFICERS

Mr. John Elliot, Jr.	Moderator
Mrs. Maxine Tyler	Treasurer
Mrs. Laurier Elliot	Auditor
Mrs. Helena Harris	Clerk
Mr. Norman H. Mullen	Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Harold J. Haskins	Asst. Superintendent of Schools

RECORD OF AFFIRMATIVE VOTES
AT ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING 1984
MARCH 13, 1984

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 P.M by the Moderator, John G. Elliott Jr. Mr. Elliott read the School Warrant and the following action was taken on the Articles in the School Warrant.

Article 1:

Voted John G. Elliott Jr. for the office of Moderator for the coming year. The motion was seconded.

Article 2:

Voted Helena Harris for the Office of Clerk for the coming year. The motion was seconded.

Article 3:

Voted Peter Thompson as a member of the school board for a term of three years. The motion was seconded.

Article 4:

Voted Maxine Tyler as Treasurer for the coming year. The motion was seconded.

Article 5:

Voted to accept article 5 as written, which was to determine and appoint the salaries of the School Board and Truant officer and fix the compensation of other officers or agents of the District.

Article 6:

Voted to accept Article 6 as written, which was to hear reports of agents, committees, or officers chosen and pass any vote relating thereto. The only report heard was from the committee of Harold Noyes, Mrs. Janet Cadreact and Scott Roden pertaining to the cost of having a small school in Benton. This was checked into and in the long run it would not be a wise choice for the Town to do such. The Bath and Piermont schools were checked into and it would be cheaper for them to send the children to the Woodsville School. It would also cost as much for busing, as the high school kids would have to have a bus come get them and take them to the high school in Woodsville.

Article 7:

Voted Laurier Elliott as Auditor for the coming year. The motion was seconded.

Article 8:

There were various comments on this lengthy Article. It was asked why special education tuition has risen so sharply from \$7,021 to \$13,000 and the reply was that it has never requested more money in all the previous years. It was explained that Benton has never qualified before as this money is given by the State to Towns on the most needy list. There was also a question as to what the contingency is for. (It is for \$3,600). It was explained that this fund is for in case Warren students, for example, need to be bussed into the Haverhill area for one reason or another. The proposed budget of \$118,798.07 for the ensuing school year was accepted.

Article 9:

Voted to transact any other business that may legally come before said

RECORD OF AFFIRMATIVE VOTES
AT ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING 1984
MARCH 13, 1984
CONT.

Meeting . The only other business that came before the school meeting was some discussion on the driving habits of the Handicapped bus driver. It seems he has been seen in various places traveling at unreasonable speeds.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the school meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:00P.M.

Helena L. Harris
Clerk

SCHOOL WARRANT

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

To the inhabitants of the School District in the Town of Benton qualified to vote in district affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Community Building in said district on the 12th day of March, 1985 at 8:30 in the afternoon to act upon the following subjects:

Article 1: To choose a Moderator for the coming year.

Article 2: To choose a Clerk for the ensuing year.

Article 3: To choose one Member of the School Board for a term of three years, ending in 1988 .

Article 4: To Choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Article 5: To determine and appoint the salaries of the School Board and Truant Officer and fix the compensation of other officers or agents of the district.

Article 6: To hear reports of Agents, Committees, or Officers chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

Article 7: To choose Agents, Auditors, and Committees, in relation to any subject embraced in this Warrant.

Article 8: To see what sum of money the district will raise and appropriate for the support of schools, for the salaries of school district officials and agents and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district and to authorize the application against said appropriation of such sums as are estimated revenue and appropriation, which balance is to be raised by taxes by the town.

Article 9: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Given under our hands at said Benton this 13th day of February, 1985.

Priscilla Boutin

Alice Harris

Peter Thompson

School Board of Benton

A True Copy of Warrant--Attest:

Priscilla Boutin

Alice Harris

Peter Thompson

School Board of Benton

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUDGET FOR 1985-1986

	Adopted Budget <u>1984-5</u>	Proposed Budget <u>1985-6</u>
1000 Instruction		
1100 Regular Education		
561 Tuition	\$ 86,650.00	\$ 95,100.00
1200 Special Education		
561 Tuition	13,000.00	10,977.50
2000 Support Services		
2300 General Administration		
870 Contingency	50.00	50.00
2311 School Board Services		
110 Salaries	175.00	175.00
2312 Clerk of Board Services		
110 Salaries	16.00	16.00
2313 Treasurer Services		
110 Salaries	50.00	50.00
2317 Audit Services		
110 Salaries	16.00	16.00
2321 Office of Superintendent Services		
351 S.A.U. #23 Mgt. Services	1,241.07	2,673.00
2250 Pupil Transportation		
513 Contracted Services	14,000.00	14,000.00
870 Contingency	<u>3,600.00</u>	<u>2,150.00</u>
TOTAL	\$118,798.07	\$125,207.50

ESTIMATED INCOME FOR 1985-1986

	<u>1984-85</u>	<u>1985-86</u>
Unreserved Fund Balance	\$22,784.54	
<u>1000 Revenue From Local Sources</u>		
<u>1100 Taxes</u>		
1120 Current Appropriation	74,392.01	\$103,647.04
<u>1900 Other Revenue-Local Sources</u>		
1920 Trust Fund Income	122.44	122.44
<u>3000 Revenue From State Sources</u>		
<u>3100 Unrestricted Grants-In-Aid</u>		
3110 Foundation Aid	13,061.06	13,000.00
3120 Sweepstakes	906.02	906.02
3240 Handicapped Aid	3,032.00	3,032.00
<u>4000 Revenue From Federal Sources</u>		
<u>4800 Revenue in Lieu of Taxes</u>		
4810 Forest Reserve	<u>4,500.00</u>	<u>4,500.00</u>
 TOTAL APPROPRIATION	 \$118,798.07	 \$125,207.50

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF REVENUES,
EXPENDITURES & CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE

FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1984

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
REVENUES		
Local Taxes	\$106,163.00	\$106,163.00
Trust Fund Income	122.00	342.10
State Sources		
Sweepstakes	843.00	843.15
Vocational School Aid		3,595.79
Handicapped Aid	3,032.00	3,032.00
National Forest Reserve	4,500.00	4,613.34
Other Local Revenue	<u>28.17</u>	<u>28.17</u>
Total Revenues	\$114,660.00	\$118,617.55
EXPENDITURES		
Instruction		
Regular Education	\$ 87,800.00	\$ 72,434.77
Special Education	7,021.00	7,326.91
Vocational Education		3,200.00
General Administration		
School Board Services	257.00	257.00
S.A.U. #23	1,351.59	1,210.27
Contingency	50.00	
Transportation		
Contract Services	11,000.00	11,619.94
Contingency	1,200.00	
Construction	200.00	276.61
Deficit Appropriation	<u>6,500.00</u>	<u>227.93</u>
Total Expenditures	\$115,379.59	\$ 96,325.50
82-83 Accounts Rec. Written Off		<u>227.93</u>
	\$115,379.59	\$ 96,553.43
Excess Revenue over Expenditures		22,064.12
Fund Balance, July 1, 1983	720.42	720.42
Fund Balance, June 30, 1984		22,784.54

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BENTON

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 1984

BALANCE SHEET
JUNE 30, 1984

<u>ASSETS</u>		<u>General</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>		
<u>Account No.</u>		
100 Cash		\$ 72.08
140 Intergovernmental Receivables		<u>22,881.07</u>
Total Assests		\$22,953.15
<u>LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY</u>		
<u>Liabilities</u>		
<u>Account No.</u>		
420 Other payables		<u>168.61</u>
Total Liabilities		\$ 168.61
<u>Fund Equity</u>		
770 Unreserved Fund Balance		<u>\$22,784.54</u>
Total Fund Equity		\$22,784.54
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity		\$22,953.15

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
GENERAL FUND ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURES
FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1984

	<u>Elementary</u>	<u>Junior High</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Totals</u>
<u>Instruction</u>				
Regular Education	33,595.77	11,239.00	27,600.00	72,434.77
Special Education	7,326.91			7,326.91
Vocational Educa.			3,200.00	3,200.00
<u>General Administration</u>				
School Board	142.00	42.00	73.00	257.00
S.A.U. #23 Services	695.27	180.25	334.75	1,210.27
<u>Transportation</u>				
Contract Services	5,810.02	2,033.51	3,776.41	11,619.94
<u>Facilities Acquisition</u>				
Construction	<u>276.61</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>276.61</u>
Totals	47,846.58	13,494.76	34,984.16	96,325.50

REPORT OF SCHOOL DISTRICT TREASURER
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BENTON
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 1983 TO JUNE 30, 1984

SUMMARY

Cash on Hand, July 1, 1983	\$	57.99
Received from Selectmen		
Current Appropriation	\$84,481.93	
Revenue from State Sources	6,270.94	
Revenue from Federal Sources	4,613.34	
Received as Income from Trust Funds	237.36	
Received from All other Sources	<u>132.91</u>	
Total Receipts	\$95,736.48	
Total Amount Available for Fiscal Year	95,794.47	
Less School Board Orders Paid	<u>95,722.39</u>	
Balance on Hand, June 30, 1984	\$	72.08
July 5, 1984		
	Maxine Tyler	
	District Treasurer	

This is to certify that I have examined the books, vouchers, bank statements and other financial records of the treasurer of the school district of Benton of which the above is a true summary for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1984 and find them correct in all respects.

July 9, 1984

Laurie S. Elliott
Auditor

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

I herewith submit my twentieth annual report to the voters of the Benton School District:

Last year the Benton School District received Foundation Aid for the first time in many years. We have included this figure in next year's budget, but since this is a legislative year, we never know what will happen in Concord.

Already a new finance scheme called the Augenblick School Financial Plan has emerged; and from all indications, stands a fairly good chance of passage. If this plan did successfully pass both the House and Senate, and were fully funded, Benton would see an estimated decrease of \$14.79 in its tax rate per thousand. These are only estimates and politics being the art that is is, I wouldn't spend my money saved.

The tuition figure is only an estimate and a firm figure should be available prior to March meeting. A tuition analysis of the Benton School District is as follows:

Kindergarten	4 @ \$1,000.00 = \$ 4,000.00
Elementary	19 @ \$2,000.00 = 38,000.00
Junior High	6 @ \$2,350.00 = 14,100.00
Senior High	13 @ \$3,000.00 = 39,000.00
	<u>\$95,100.00</u>

Special Education continues to be expensive to Benton as it is with most of the school districts everywhere. It is our belief that any monies spent in this area are well spent and will bear dividends in the future.

The following tuition comparative chart is presented for voter information:

	<u>Junior High</u>	<u>Senior High</u>
Plymouth		3,102.48
Orford		3,000.00
Hanover	4,078.00	4,034.00
Oxbow	3,450.00	3,450.00
Haverhill	2,350.00	3,000.00

May I take this opportunity to thank the staff, school board and voters for their wonderful support during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Norman H Mullen
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #23

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT'S AND ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S SALARY

Section 5, Chapter 243, Laws of 1953 of the State of New Hampshire requires that school district annual reports show the total amount paid to the superintendent and assistant superintendent.

One-half of the School Administrative Unit expense is prorated among the several school districts of the Unit on the basis of adjusted valuation. One-half is prorated on the basis of average daily membership in the schools for the previous school year ending June 30. The Superintendent of S.A.U. #23 during the 1984-1985 school year will receive a salary of \$47,383.00 prorated among the several school districts. The Assistant Superintendent will receive a salary of \$36,865.00 prorated among the several school districts.

The table below shows the proration of salaries to each school district:

	Superintendent's Salary
Bath	\$ 2,492.35
Benton	516.47
Haverhill Cooperative	19,943.50
Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative	16,494.02
Monroe	3,013.56
Piermont	2,606.07
Warren	<u>2,317.03</u>
	\$47,383.00
	Assistant Superintendent's Salary
Bath	\$ 1,939.10
Benton	401.83
Haverhill Cooperative	15,516.48
Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative	12,832.71
Monroe	2,344.61
Piermont	2,027.57
Warren	<u>1,802.70</u>
	\$36,865.00

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN THE TOWN OF BENTON, NH
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1984

Date of Birth and Name of Child	Sex	Name of Father Name of Mother
June 13, 1984 Melanie Ann Elliott	F	James Watson Elliott, Jr. Jane Ellen Kelley
September 14, 1984 Robert Owen Elliott, 3rd	Male	Robert Owen Elliott, Jr. Jean Marie Sylvester
October 30, 1984 Sean Leland Hall	Male	Curtis Bradford Hall Mary Elizabeth Ventura

MARRIAGES REGISTERED IN THE TOWN OF BENTON, NH
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1984

Date and Names of Groom and Bride	Residence of Groom and Bride	Name of Father Name of Mother
April 17, 1984 Kenneth C. Bullard	East Ryegate, Vt.	Russell C. Bullard Mildred I. Bullard
Donna M. Walker	Benton, NH	Albert J. Boutin Sr. Mabel E. Guyette
Dec. 21, 1984 Teresa I. Clark	Woodsville, NH	Robert A. Clark Patricia I. Adams
Justen J. Elliott	Benton, NH	Catherine L. Mason John G. Elliott, Jr.

DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE TOWN OF BENTON, NH
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1984

Date of Death Name of Deceased and Place of Birth	Age	Name of Father Name of Mother
February 10, 1984 Michael Scott Harris Woodsville, NH	13	Michael Eugene Harris Helena Louise Smith
February 17, 1984 Maria Gauthier Canada	84	Pierre Racette Clairalda Avar
April 5, 1984 Jeanetta Grant Northampton, Mass ,	74	Alfred Grant Mary M. McKenzie
September 29, 1984 Edith Dodge Northfield, NH	77	James S. Cummings Annie May MaHoney
October 2, 1984 Lloyd I Iveson Avon, Mass,	84	Irving Iveson Ida F. Butler
October 24, 1984 Gabrielle Poulin Canada	72	Hilaire Poulin Georgianna Kerouac
October 27, 1984 Lawrence Bennett Sandwich, NH	71	Edward Bennett Mary Davis
November 13, 1984 Hormidas Champagne Mass.	85	Hercules Champagne Helen Boucher
Unknown Russell Craig Lackie Exeter, NH	15	Frederick Lackie Susan Lackie

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FIRST CLASS

